

I was appalled to learn of Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. It is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It is also an unfortunate example of how the FCC, created to protect the Country's airways for the public interest, has like so many other "public" agencies, become a protector of large corporations, without regard for the public.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. The FCC needs to be reminded that the "public" in public interest means the people of the USA, not the biggest, richest corporations of the USA.

Thank you.